

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 /076 W  
-----150259Z 027029 /73

R 141630Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 519  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1968

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS SHUM BR  
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC JURISTS ORGANIZATION INTEREST  
IN ALLEGED TORTURE OF PC DO B SUSPECTS

REF: A) SAO PAULO 238 (NOTAL) B) 76 BRASILIA 10498 (NOTAL)

1. AIRTON SOARES, AT RECENT INFORMAL LUNCHEON AT EMOFF'S HOME, OPPOSITION PARTY FEDERAL DEPUTY, WHO IS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AS WELL AS MEMBER OF LAW FIRM DEFENDING RECENTLY ARRESTED COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRAZIL (PC DO B) MEMBERS (REFTEL A), ADVISED US THAT THERE ARE NO COPIES IN BRAZIL OF REPORT BY TWO -MAN DELEGATION FROM INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC JURIST ORGANIZATION (ICJO) WHICH ATTEMPTED TO INVESTIGATE BRAZILIAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION INCLUDING ABUSES OF SUSPECTS IN PC DO B CASE. HE CONFIRMED THAT ICJO LAWYERS, LOUIS JOINET AND MARIO STASI, WHOM HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH, WERE DENIED ACCESS TO PC DO B SUSPECTS THEN HARASSED AND SEARCHED UPON DEPARTURE FROM BRAZIL IN FEBRUARY.

2. DISCUSSING THE FATE OF THE PC DO B ACTIVISTS HELD SINCE LATE DECEMBER, SOARES CONFIRMED PRESS ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS BY THEIR  
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OTHER ATTORNEYS THAT THEY HAD BEEN TORTURED.  
SOARES ABSOLVED SECOND ARMY COMMANDER DILERMANDO FROM DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH ACTS, BUT INDICATED DILERMANDO WAS MANIPULATED

BY INTELLIGENCE SERVICES INTO ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR TORTURE.  
DILERMANDO HAD WANTED TO KEEP HIS COMMAND CLEAR FROM ACCUSATIONS OF TORTURE AND HAD DIRECTED THAT INTERROGATION UNITES FROM RIO

DE JANEIRO HANDLE PC DO B SUSPECTS. SOARES CLAIMED INTERROGATORS, HOWEVER, TORTURED PC DO B SUSPECT ALDO ARANTES IN DEC., ONLY ONE DAY BEFORE LAWYERS AND FAMILY WERE SCHEDULED TO VISIT, KNOWING FULL WELL MARKS WOULD STILL BE APPARENT. ARANTES SHOWED EVIDENCE OF MISTREATMENT ON FEET AND LEGS AND HIS LAWYERS PROTESTED TO DILERMANDO, WHO BECAUSE OF HIS COMMAND POSITION WAS FORCED TO DENY TORTURE OCCURRED. INTELLIGENCE SERVICE HAD THUS ENTRAPPED DILERMANDO INTO A DENIAL HE DID NOT WISH TO MAKE, BUT FOR PROFESSIONAL AND INTERNAL ARMY POLITICAL REASONS COULD NOT AVOID.

3. FOR PARIS: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EFFORT EMBASSY CAN MAKE TO OBTAIN AND POUCH TO US ICJO REPORT ON BRAZIL. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY COMMENT EMBASSY MAY HAVE ABOUT REPUTATION AND CREDIBILITY OF ICJO AS AN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION.

4. COMMENT: CHARGES OF SOARES, WHO HAS BEEN RELIABLE AND BALANCED REPORTER IN THE PAST, WHEN ADDED TO SIMILAR PREVIOUS REPORTS FROM OTHER DIVERSE SOURCES, LEAVE LITTLE ROOM NOW FOR DOUBT THAT AT LEAST ARANTES WAS TORTURED, AS VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL GROUPS HAVE PROTESTED. THIS REPRESENTS DEPARTURE FROM PAST YEAR'S POLICY OF CAREFUL TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SECOND ARMY AREA. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY EFFORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OR SECOND ARMY AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT OR TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED. EMD COMMEND. CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Reference:** 77 SAO PAULO 238, 76 BRASILIA 10498  
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**Review Markings:**  
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